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# Friendship

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THE ENGLISH NEWSLETTER OF THE TAIWAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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# Christmas Greeting from the Bishop

Christmas, 99

Dear Friends,

Christmas is a time to say hello, to renew our friendship. It is also a precious chance to share the good tidings of Christmas with friend and relatives on this most blessed season.

The year of 1999 has been a difficult year for Taiwan. In addition to the political campaign for presidency next year which wastes most of the energy of this country and distracts people's attention to national major problems, a terrible earthquake struck Taiwan on 21 Sept. Seeing the enthusiastic responses from overseas as well as those at home in such a short time, we witness once again the phenomenon described by the old Chinese saying, "患難見真情" (huan nan gian zhen ching) which means, "True friendship is best seen in misfortune." In English, we would say, "When you are down, you find out who your friends really are." To date we have received donations of US\$209,156 from overseas and US\$180,292 from Taiwan. On behalf of our people, we are most grateful for the help from oversea Churches and individuals. There is a popular slogan after the earthquake here, "Taiwan, keep going 台灣加油!!" With the generosity from inside and outside, we have confidence to rebuild the hard-hit area back to normal soon.

Thanks be to God and the love of His faithful people, we are able to finish to build St. Timothy Church,

for a Taiwanese congregation-the tallest and biggest church building in this Diocese. We joyfully look forward to dedicating it to the glory of God on Jan.8. We are also in the process of electing a Bishop Coadjutor, who will assist and then succeed me. These two momentous events will usher in the Millennium for the Diocese of Taiwan.

2000 is the year of Jubilee! Both Christian and non-Christian will celebrate the new millennium. It is a Holy year, a year of God's favor, a year of liberation, a year of forgiving and reconciliation. May we fully embody such spirits in all facets of our lives and make the new millennium a most blessed year for you and me. Hereby, we can truly love ourselves and others, treasure all Creation and respect the Almighty God.

Grace is happy as usual and accompanies me to visit the churches of the Diocese. Yaling, our eldest daughter is expecting a child in June, and Timothy, her husband, has finished his study at USC and passed all necessary exams. He is ready to resume his practice of dentistry in USA. Yamine, our second daughter, still works as a project specialist for Carrefour cultural & education Foundation. She stays with us. Jonathan, our son, had completed his masters degree at the University of Florida at Gainesville last Christmas and is now working in Silicon Valley USA.

Please continue to pray for our diocese and our nation. We wish you and your dear ones God's blessing for Christmas and the New Year.



[illegible]

As we approach a new millennium, let us do so with expectance and humility. May we assume an open and welcoming attitude toward God's compassion made flesh and dwelling among us in Jesus. As we receive God's compassion into our hearts they fill and overflow. Compassion thus moves out from God through us: compassion toward one another across all the divisions that plague us as a church and as a nation and subvert all notions of being members one of another for the common good; compassion across cultures and national identities that make us creditors and debtors, rich and poor; compassion for the stranger and the other who is a potential angel of God rather than an enemy; compassion for the earth

You come to us, O Christ,  
at the turning of the year and the  
dawn of a new millennium  
You are the Alpha and the Omega  
The beginning and the end. All  
times  
and seasons are yours, and in you  
all things hold together and are  
brought to completion.  
Draw us by your Spirit into  
communion  
with you and one another and  
make us and all things  
whole and free in the full force  
of your deathless love.  
Amen.



3

## The Archbishop of Canterbury's Christmas message to the Anglican Communion

*"When they saw the star, they were overjoyed" (Matthew 2:10)*

The joy of the Wise Men is understandable. The Gift of Christ to our world is beyond our comprehension. Christmas is always a joyful time for Christians, a time to reflect, with thankfulness to God, upon the full richness of his gift to the world of the Word made Flesh. How profoundly blessed we have been over the past two thousand years by the faith and the hope we have been given in Jesus Christ, that in him the world in all its pain and suffering as well as in its goodness and glory, might be saved.

But this year is special. Across the world, Christians and non-Christians will be united in marking the dawn of a new millennium. There will be global celebrations which acknowledge in a symbolic way the indelible mark which Jesus has made on history, and I hope there will be much rejoicing!

On 31 December, I will be joining many leading figures from Britain, including the Queen, the Prime Minister and a wide range of religious and civic leaders, for a national celebration in the Millennium Dome. I will have the great privilege and joy of leading the nation in prayer and thanksgiving. At that moment, with half the world having already entered the year 2000, and the other half just about to, I shall be very conscious of being at one with you all as we thank God for his goodness and ask him to bless

our future together as part of his one creation.

Of course, being at the Millennium Dome, which has deliberately been developed on the Greenwich Meridian, I am sharply reminded that, for several centuries, we have looked at the world in a very euro-centric way. For a long time, maps have been centred around Europe, often exaggerating its size in comparison with other parts. Much of the language which we use to describe the world – the Far East, the Antipodes, the West Indies – assume that everyone sees the globe from a London perspective.

Well, the Anglican Communion demonstrates so well how those perspectives have changed as we enter the new Millennium. We are truly a world-wide Communion, and we are called to value, respect and care for one another. There continue to be so many places and so many people who are weighed down by the burden of human suffering. We are at one in that suffering as we are at one in the joy of faith. Indeed, it is by growing in that sense of oneness that our pain is transfigured as we each seek to express God's love in our own lives.

It is in that spirit that many people have become very involved in the campaign to lift the burden of unpayable debt from the poorest countries of the world. This campaign, led by the Jubilee 2000 Coalition, has been very successful in drawing attention to the moral dimensions of the problem, and we



must ensure that the momentum is maintained, and developed into a challenge to ensure that the UN targets on poverty reduction by 2015 are achieved.

Let me then end this Christmas message by recalling that the 'euro-centricity' of our modern world is a recent phenomenon. Many of the medieval maps which exist - we have a wonderful example in Hereford Cathedral - place Jerusalem at the centre. As we remember with joy God's presence with us, and dedicate ourselves afresh in his service as we

begin the new Millennium, let us pray for the peace of Jerusalem, spiritual home for millions of people, Christian, Muslim and Jew. May the Prince of Peace reign in our hearts and our lives this Christmas, and may the peace of God, which passes all understanding, invade this world, bringing joy and hope in our believing.

Your brother in Christ,

*George Carey*



## Companion Dioceses

*About a year ago, Bishop Michael Ingham gave Bishop Chien his vision of a companion diocese relationship between the Diocese of Taiwan and the Diocese of New Westminster. Rev. David Tatchall then came to Taiwan and visited all of the churches here and talked with the clergy extensively.*

After Rev. Tatchall's favorable report, Bishop Ingham invited Taiwan to send a delegate to Vancouver, Bishop Chien asked me to go, and I began this journey immediately after the 921 earthquake.

New Westminster is huge - more than 80 parishes. David Tatchall and his colleagues arranged a 16-day itinerary during which I talked with the bishop, the executive secretary, the public relations and

religious education directors of the diocese and many of these parishes. I talked with each of them for more than two hours to facilitate understanding each diocese's problems, strengths and needs.

Under special arrangements, I was honored to attend three diocesan committee meetings - Evangelism, Justice and Peace. I sent greetings to all the mothers and sisters in the diocese of New Westminster on behalf of Bishop Chien and the clergy of Taiwan. To introduce our diocese, I let them know about the 921 earthquake relief work and peoples' generous donations. On behalf of the Church and our suffering people, I thanked them.

On Sunday, I preached at two churches. I had to preach three times at St. Andrews' Church. During the week, I was also invited to celebrate Holy Communion (at the Cathedral and at the chapel at the seminary. I visited eight churches. I had the opportunity to visit the chaplain's office at St. Paul's Hospital and discuss the ministering to AIDS and drug abuse victims. I visited the faculty and students of UBS and Vancouver Seminary where we had very frank discussions. I guess it helped them to understand Taiwan a great deal better.

I visited the Taiwanese Cultural Center which may provides Chinese cultural programs for certain festivals. I attended St. Augustine Church which, on Thursday nights, provides a community meal for the homeless and training courses in food/preparation. I enjoyed Thanksgiving (the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in October for Canada) at St. Agustin's Church. On October 10, I preached at St. Andrew's Church. Rev. Andrew Pike is the nephew of Miss Peggy Pike who took good care of our clergy when the visited Ireland. Because of this, we met with great joy.

When the members of NWM Diocese came to understand that the projects we have currently undertaken cost about 5 million Canadian dollars, they all thought that was God's special blessing, for nearly half the parishes in Vancouver are in financial difficulty. In addition, they may have to confront an indigenous issue which

could make diocese bankrupt.

Most of the clergy and people are very actively involved in church activities. They serve with considerable humility, which greatly impressed me.

EFM (Education for Ministry) which was started a hundred years ago by Sewanee. The University of the South, is a four-year course, which provides a big help for the equipping of laity. In addition to EFM, New Westminster offers a vocational diaconate program to encourage laymen to do non-stipendiary work that is quite similar to our Trinity Institute. In the seminary, I saw a lot of middle-aged students.

After two weeks of intensive visiting we all agreed that we might start with programs like the exchange of clergy, youth, culture, and experience. Praying for each other is a very workable priority. In fact, New Westminster Diocese accepted the proposal to create a Companion Diocese relationship with the Diocese of Taiwan at their diocesan synod on October 12.

I am grateful to God for being able to represent the Diocese of Taiwan in this historical exchange and for being able to meet the challenge of smoothly completing my visit with its very heavy schedules.

Last, I am most grateful to Rev. David Tatchall, and especially to Mary, his wife who is a teacher and yet took time to cook delicious dishes for us. I also wish to give thanks to Margaret and Philip Der for their hospitality in accommodating me while I was there.



## OBSERVATIONS

*An initial impression of the Taiwan Episcopal Church is all that I can give having, as yet, only spent three days with you. I'll return home, however, with an "impression" in both senses of the word: what I have seen is only a superficial glimpse of the life of the Church here, but what I have seen has left its imprint.*

In each of the churches that I have visited; the Cathedral, the Church of the Good Shepherd, the chapel at St. John's and St. Mary's Institute of Technology and St. James' in Taichung; there is a sense of space simplicity and peace that invite prayer. They are places where it is, indeed, good to spend time with God. Friends here tell me that Christianity is still seen by many as being a foreign religion, so I was particularly impressed to see the traditional Chinese design of the church complex at the Good Shepherd.

It can not be denied that the Episcopal Church in Taiwan is a relatively small Church. However, it seems to extend itself far into the community that it serves. There are kindergartens, community centers, facilities for the elderly to meet together, Trinity Hall offering lay people the opportunity to study theology, a student chaplaincy, as well as the usual church activities throughout the week for both Chinese and English speaking congregations. Each of these contributes in a different way to the mission and ministry of the Church.

I wonder if it is because you are a small church that you are open to others? Despite the difficulties that there must be, you share your ministry with those from the US, Australia and even the Church Missionary Society (CMS) in London! It is good to hear that you work closely with the Roman Catholic Church and that St. James', Taichung, recently held the first ecumenical gathering of the Church leaders for years.

As you know, there is a growing sense within the Churches of Asia that they are being called to participate as fully as they can in the empowerment of and ministry to migrant workers. Our brothers and sisters from Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines, etc. leave their families and friends behind in order to find the means of survival that eludes them back home. As if separation from all that is familiar to them is not enough, they can be vulnerable to maltreatment of every kind in the receiving countries. In England it is all too easy to turn a blind eye to the hardship suffered by those who work behind closed doors. It was encouraging therefore to hear that this ministry is of great concern to Bishop John Chien as well as to the clergy.

Henri Nouwen, priest and Theologian, talks about hospitality as the gift of being able to accept as well as to admit vulnerability in oneself and to make a home for the stranger despite his weakness and yours. This seems to

happen in the Taiwan Episcopal Church in the ministry to migrant workers, the care and inclusiveness shown to those with disabilities and in other areas of outreach.

**I**n the more usual sense of the word, I have experienced great hospitality here in Taiwan. During no other visit to partner churches overseas, have I been asked to phone the Bishop late in the evening to assure him of my late arrival nor have I ever before been invited to share a meal with the Bishop almost minutes before he leaves for an overseas trip. Thank you for your care and for your interest and to all those who have taken time out to show me around, share news of your church and institutions, ferry me from airports to stations and entertain me with such warmth.

**P**lease remember CMS in your prayers as we celebrate our 200<sup>th</sup>

birthday. Pray that as we look back, we can reflect on when we have truly done God's will, and when we have fallen short, and that with humility we can seek His will for us in the future. Pray that we remain committed to playing our part in sharing the Gospel sensitively with those of other faiths and none, to working with refugees and migrant workers, to working with local churches around the world to develop church leadership, to empowering women and young people and to working towards fullness of life for all people.

**W**e continue to remember you in our prayers.

*Liz Russell,  
acting Asia representative, CMS*

## THE BISHOP'S LETTER

*A new millennium – a year of the Lord's favor – the year of Jubilee! We are very fortunate to enter a new millennium – the year of Jubilee. In this special year, according to the Jewish tradition – the land will return to its original owner, slaves will be liberated, debts released and the land is to have a sabbath of rest (Leviticus 25:10).*

In Jewish tradition, Sabbath is 7, which is regarded as a perfect number. 7 x 7 is even regarded as the most perfect number. 49 years is the end of an era and the 50<sup>th</sup> year is a new beginning. Jubilee is closely

related to the concept of Sabbath – its Hebrew root is "dsabat" which means rest. Therefore the year of Jubilee is a year of rest for the land, liberation of slaves from bondage, reconciliation (forgiveness of debt).

**A]** Rest of the land – give nature the opportunity to refresh itself. Because of the exploding population, we overdevelop our land and sacrifice nature for our survival and enjoyment. Rather than exploit nature for our consumerism and utility, the year of Jubilee reminds us that we have to respect and



treasure nature – a precious gift from God.

#### **B] Liberation of slaves from bondage**

The year of Jubilee reminds us that we have to stop exploiting laborers and honor their rights, especially the migrant workers. We tend to have bias toward others because of our prejudice and misguided mass media or lack of enough information. We are also victims of hatred and ideology. Therefore we need to be liberated from our spiritual as well as our material bondage.

#### **C] Reconciliation**

We have often been at odds with other people because of our self-centeredness or subjectivism.

There are many broken families and human relationships. The tension between rich and poor becomes even worse in our world today. This is not only a material problem but also a spiritual problem. We need to forgive each other both materially and spiritually. Anglicans have moved in the campaign led by the Jubilee 2000 coalition to cancel the terrible debt of the 3<sup>rd</sup> world by 2015

May the new millennium, the year of Jubilee also be the year of God's favor to you. May the Prince of Peace grant us true rest, liberation and conciliation in the year to come.

Your brother in Christ,

*+John*

## **921 Earthquake - A Personal Experience**

The night of September 21 was a night none of us will ever forget. Such violent shaking and tremendous noise awakened us that it took a while for the reality of what was actually happening to sink in.

**O**n that first day, most of us had an overwhelming sense of relief. Relief that we were alive, and relief that our church buildings were not too badly damaged. Gradually, however, as the day went on, that feeling was replaced by one of anxiety and worry. Many people in Taichung have family and friends in Puli, and more and more reports were coming in about the number of deaths and the absolute desolation there. All were anxious to hear news of their families, and all were

worried about them even when they did hear news. By the second day, a state of shock had taken over. We were all traumatized by what had happened. Massive aftershocks terrified everyone, and although we were hanging around at ground level, any shaking caused a lot of consternation as we all ran out onto the playground.

**F**or those next few days, it was difficult to do anything other than listen to the radio, read the papers, and talk to those who came by to visit us. No one had any energy or enthusiasm. There seemed to be so much suffering, so much death, so much misery.

**S**o many horrifying personal stories. It was overwhelming.

The first weekend after the earthquake was the mid-autumn moon festival, and I spent the weekend with two of our kindergarten teachers in Tainan County. Strangely therapeutic was the evening we spent at the local night market playing on the pinball machines. A game of total chance....totally random. It seemed to symbolize the whole nature of the earthquake.

I spent nearly a week asking myself questions over and over again. The questions were not "What is the meaning of life?" but the far more basic "Is there any meaning of life?" "Why does that town get devastated and not ours?" Why do they die and not me?" What have I done to deserve life? What have they done to deserve death?" Why not me?" We had already seen an estate of apartment buildings, all built by the same builder, on the same site. Three of those huge 20-story buildings had collapsed. Why those 3?" Where is God?" We passed a church with the words "GOD IS LOVE" on a banner outside. "Huh, you could have fooled me", was my thought at the time. For every miracle story of someone being rescued, there were 500 non-miracles – the man who was rescued but then committed suicide on hearing that all his family were dead – the woman who was rescued only to be killed in an aftershock – and the child who survived the earthquake, but then was killed when a tree fell on top of her as she waited to see the President. I was angry with God. Fed up! There was no way I wanted to pray, or even have any communication with God.

For a week I avoided Him.

During that week I found I had very little fear.. Although I avoided the high-rise buildings, I enjoyed all the risks I did take. Normally high speeds terrify me, but I loved speeding along on the back of the motorbike at night. I loved the bus journey back to Taichung when we raced off the motorway at every exit sigh, over the intersection at the top, down the slip road and along the hard shoulder, all to beat the traffic jam. My thought was, "Wow, this is nothing. I have survived an earthquake!"

It was easy to blame the government of Taiwan for their feeble rescue efforts, and easy to arrest builders for shoddy construction: but the most bitter words I heard were directed toward the mainland Chinese Government in Beijing. Their shallow words, pathetic offers of help, and their refusal to allow the Russian rescue team to fly through China's air space all caused huge outpourings of anger and hatred.

I myself found it easier to direct my bitterness and anger towards God. He's big enough to absorb it all, and I find it reassuring that he doesn't condemn me for doing so. Coming to terms with what happened, and what continues to happen, is a slow process, but it is underway. I have no answers to any of my questions, and they still lurk there in the back of my mind. Recently, I have come round to thinking that there is meaning to life, but the meaning doesn't lie in life or death itself, rather in the actual living and the actual dying. Somewhere deep in this huge



tragedy, God is there. Suffering? Caring? Loving? Being? Doing? I don't know. Does God suffer with us in our deepest pain and despair? Does he also bear the shock, the grief and the fear? We all appear calm on the surface, but the aftershocks continue to be unsettling, and underneath there is a deep fear

that another huge earthquake will hit us. If so, it is comforting to know that many people, all over the world, are praying for us and are concerned for us. THANK YOU!

*Catherine Lee*

## **St. James – Tai-Chung**

I thought I knew what to expect, having lived in Taipei and assisted at St. John's Cathedral last year, but St. James' and its English Language Congregation have been something new for me.

Even though I arrived after the Great Earthquake, its effects seem to both persist and even to grow in some ways. Persist in the frequent small aftershocks to remind us that not even the earth under our feet is stable.

Grow in the continual mention of it and the emotional effects it has caused or aggravated.

The English Language Congregation is a mini-quake for me. It is international, with South Africans, British, American, and of course, Taiwanese members. It is also "Ecumenical", serving as the place of worship, fellowship, and support of people from many different Christian traditions with widely differing expectations of what a Sunday Morning should look like and feel like.

We are fortunate in having three Lay Leaders who conduct Morning Prayer and preach knowledgeably and

movingly, assisting the clergy, The Rev. Dr. Charles Chen, our Rector, and myself.

But I was especially surprised by the rapid "turnover" in people. Last week, Joanne Peterson left to return to South Africa, where she will complete a Bible College course, and perhaps one-day return to Taiwan. But she is the first of several who will be leaving in the next few months. Meanwhile, we have visitors each week, which we pray will become "regulars". My own experience reminds me of how important it is to have a familiar, trusted group of friends, with whom to seek God's Will and Presence each week. In other words, to make a weekly Sunday visit to our real "home"-God who is the "unquakable" place to stand.

We look forward to Advent with a Baptism and Confirmation when the Bishop comes, and to Christmas. Usually a very happy but poignant time for those living thousands of miles from home.

*Fr. Peter+*

## St. Timothy's – New Church for the Millennium

Taiwan churches tend to be small and crowded with "things". In contrast, this spacious, pristine 200-seat sanctuary seemed enormous, but somehow filled with energy. I watched from the vantagepoint of the second floor which will eventually be an organ and choir loft, for the moment unseen by the pianist opening the large new piano, and marveled. Only a few hours before, young people on tall ladders had been installing small hanging speakers for the sound system, high on the walls. At 10 PM, the first was being put in place. This was 8AM the following morning and all six were now in place. The dust and smudges and wrapping paper in evidence last night were now nowhere to be seen.

Two young women entered carrying enormous floral arrangements and efficiently put these modules of color into place. Bright yellow calla lilies and purple tulips elegantly said, "Welcome! It's Advent!" One of the women placed a wreath on a low table and added the five ADVENT CANDLES.

The altar clothes were regal purple with elegant appliques of church symbols. All these beautiful accessories, I later discovered, were hand-made by members of the congregation and given to St. Timothy's on Kaohsiung. Today the first ever service will be conducted. The Hymnals are new. The prayer books are new. The building and everything in it are new. There is the fresh smell of new things, never

before used and a special energy of anticipation. I think it is the energy of love.

Last night when Bishop and Mrs. Chine and I arrived with Father Michael Liu, there were people cleaning the bathrooms and sweeping the floors and working on all sorts of things. The beds had not been slept in; the towels had not been used. A few things were still unfinished. Most of these late night workers were members of the congregation. Their sweat, as well as their money, had been invested in this building conceived and about to be dedicated to the glory of God and the fulfillment of his directives in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. All this investment of self had created this wonderful energy of anticipation.

Although the congregation planned this space with room to grow, when everyone was in his pew, the church seemed full and vibrant. The bishop preached and served with Rev. Lin assisting. Chief Warden Chuang read the scriptures. Every face had a smile, none greater than that of Mister Chuang. An elaborate array of snacks was brought in for the shared social celebration following the celebration of Holy Communion. During this social time, I met several members of this congregation including the mother of Mr. Chuang, the daughters of Father Chen of Hualien and Father Ou, rector of Pingtung, and their families. As I so often do, I marveled as the joyous welcome of another branch of this family of God.



This is the first church built to function in Taiwanese. From its conception it was planned as an Anglican church that would sing and pray in Taiwanese, not Mandarin. The congregation had come intact from All Saints, which has had both Mandarin and Taiwanese services. It is very difficult for us, as foreigners, to understand the joyousness of this fact to the people of this area. They were forced to function publicly in Japanese for 50 years followed by 50 years of imposed Mandarin, but in their homes they continued to use Taiwanese. The language is part of the cultural identity. Currently, it is in strong evidence.

The deacon-in-charge, Justin Lin, whose ordination as deacon, was reported in these pages earlier this year, will be ordained priest on January 8 in the same service as the dedication of this church which he will serve. So even the priest will be new. This was the desire of Father Luke Chen who initiated this project. Father Liu who supervised the construction project, as well as serving as rector of All-Saints and mentor of the young deacon, concurred.

The building is seven stories high and is the tallest Episcopal church in the diocese. It is built on the site of the former. The first two stories will be rented as commercial space, at least part to a language school. The third and part of the fourth floor are sanctuary and Sunday school rooms. The fifth floor has a guestroom, a huge meeting room that will serve as parish hall, social services facility and senior

citizens programs space. The sixth floor has more meeting space and the priest's rectory. The seventh floor has additional guest space. An English language camp with Province VIII participation, as at the College of St. John and St. Mary last summer, is being planned for this space in addition to the local programs which are most ambitious. Underground there is off-street parking – an unimaginable luxury in Taiwan.

This amazing church is truly built with Christian love and gratitude. Most of the monies came from St. Paul's kindergarten and the members of the congregation. The Diocese also contributed. But from afar came US\$50,000 in the form of a grant from the United Thank Offering foundation. UTO monies are the loving gifts of women who place a coin in a container whenever they feel gratitude or thankfulness. These monies are collected and then distributed annually as grants to needy projects. UTO grants have been a major source of support for the Diocese of Taiwan throughout its almost half century of existence and greatly helped the struggling Christians here to move from cottage to cathedral. In this project, UTO monies paid for the finish out of the social services areas of the St. Timothy's. Because of the generosity of these women, service projects to the surrounding community will begin almost immediately. For the UTO, for the dedications of these Christians, for God's blessings, we give thanks.

## **Kaohsiung**

*This is a first article by Lee Guang Wei, an eighth grade member of the congregation of St. Paul's Church in Kaohsiung. Father Michael Liu introduced him to us by saying that his English is very good. He wrote this article in English (Most of our Taiwanese contributors write in Chinese and we have their articles translated.) His article required less editing and correction than those written by native English speakers often do. We welcome him as a contributor to Friendship.*

**K**aohsiung is the second largest city in Taiwan. It is just smaller than Taipei. It has many beautiful places like Chi-Ching and Sool Shan. It will take about two or three days to visit these places.

**C**hi-Ching also has many temples. So, many people like to worship Buddha there. Some people make a special trip to eat fresh seafood, too. You have to take a ferry or drive through the tunnel to go there. It is a good place.

**S**ool-Shan is only a hill; some people call it "Monkey Mountain". It is only 600-800 meters high. Some people like to see monkeys there. They can play with them, feed, even stroke them. At the foot of the hill, there are many stall keepers.

**I** love Kaohsiung because it has many good places to go, but I really hate the city of Kaohsiung. Because it is very dirty, very crowded and very chaotic. But in the countryside of Kaohsiung, I like it very much.

## **St. Luke's – Miracle in Hualean**

In Friendship of last December, Father Luke Chen began his article with the words, "I am so small." As I saw his warm smile of greeting and heard his words of welcome, I thought, "But your heart is so big, and so filled with the love of God." Richard and I had just arrived in Hualean for the first time since the renovation of St. Luke's Church early this year. Some of you will remember from the Bishop's Letter of last spring the story of how Father Chen had said, "Send me to Hualean and give my church to a young clergyman." He had a vision of

turning this church into a spiritual center for aborigine students, for handicapped students, for Filipinos and for the elderly. In other words, for the under-served of this lovely resort community. He took funds from the kindergarten at St. Paul's, his previous parish church, money from the diocese, and a generous grant from the United Thank Offering Foundation and transformed this church.

**H**ualean is one of the most beautiful spots on this island. Mountains, rivers and the sea



surround it. The air in Hualean is fresh and non-polluted and water is clean and clear. It is near Tiroga Gorge, Taiwan's most popular tourist attraction and the source of most of the exquisite marble quarried in Taiwan.

**S**t. Luke's Episcopal Church is located five minutes from the train station and less than fifteen minutes from the airport. St. Luke's is also a holy place for tourists where they can rest and worship God. Traveling north on Ming-Li Road, you can see a five-story building with a huge cross to lead you there. Beneath the large cross, there is a shining cross of stainless steel. It is composed of blue, green, yellow, white and transparent stainless steel. Those colors symbolize that within the light of Jesus Christ, this church welcomes everyone. No matter what your political affiliation, your race, or previous religious experience, you are invited to gather here to worship, praise and experience the glory of God and good will toward men.

**T**he automatic doors in front of the church are a convenience for the disabled for Father Chen's congregations already include many in wheelchairs and many who are visually impaired.

**I**nside the beautiful lighted glass wall behind the altar, which has etched in brilliant yellow the resurrection cross, and two angels proclaiming "Christ has risen" immediately arrests you! The altar, font, lecterns and pulpit are all made of crystal etched in purple. On the ceiling there are two circular "Incarnation" abstract paintings. The green crystal glass in them

illuminates and symbolizes new life forces, as does the window. All these represent the Word becoming flesh and the resurrection from the cross bringing the world light and life.

**F**ather Chen has not wasted an inch of space or a cent of money. The sanctuary also contains and automatic screen and projector facility for movies. His office doubles as a projection room and media facility. The adjacent Parish Hall for fellowship and is used extensively after services and programs of all kinds.

**T**he first floor also contains Father Chen's modest sleeping suite, multiple toilet facilities, some handicapped suitable, a large kitchen where congregational groups and/or visitors can prepare food and a safe playground for outside activities.

**B**elow ground in the basement there is a library and all kinds of recreational materials, including Ping-Pong, snooker, card tables, etc. The large tables are an ideal place for holding Bible study and discussion groups. There are also facilities for students to stay overnight as needed.

**I**n front of the church there is a huge public parking lot. Father Chen and Nick spent the previous weekend cleaning it of rubbish and trash.

**F**or all the beauty of the building, it is the beauty in the faces of those who compose the congregations that really matters. We were privileged to see Father Chen and his son, Jason, a graduate student at Dong Hua University interact with some of the blind students they serve. No light is so

bright as the joyous smiles on their faces at the sounds of these voices.

We had dinner with Mr. Chuang, a pharmaceutical manufacturer who was part of Father Chen's congregation in Kaochiung and who had business in Hualean. This brilliant and joyous man has contributed much to St. Paul's and now to St. Timothy's where he serves as Chief Warden. On Saturday, we joined him, Father Chen and another couple from Kaohsiung who had come for a visit for breakfast and a day of sightseeing.

We visited the beach called "Seven Stars Lake" where students catch fish and then barbecue them and then had goat's milk coffee at a nearby beach club. Mt. Yang remembered from his student days. We visited Tiroga Gorge, one of the most dramatic places anywhere. A visit with Father Chen included a stop at an aboriginal celebration of longevity. A number of nonagenarians and centenarians wearing the traditional tattoos of youth into advanced old age were the honorees of this celebration. They were welcoming to us and gave us unusual traditional food to eat. We visited the new Formosa Regent for lunch and an old aboriginal church of great charm. I was surprised and delighted to learn that most of Taiwan's aboriginal peoples are Christian. Later we visited the seminary and the university as well as seeing the Tsu Shi Buddhist Hospital.

On Sunday morning, Father Chen conducts Mandarin language and English language services. He is

assisted in both by Nick Chen and his wife who are aborigine, but from different tribes. The English service included resident Americans, Ann and Ken Sudderth from Texas and North Carolina, old friends from the Philippines including Carole, who used to worship with us at the cathedral and now travels from Tai Ping Shan to Hualean for services, a journey of several hours by bus, and new aboriginal friends. Ann will be reporting on the St. Luke's English congregation for future issues of Friendship. After both services, the parish hall is alive with Christian friends eating and laughing or reading a newspaper or using the computer for games. It is indeed a place of joyous fellowship.

The most unusual member of Father Chen's "special" congregation is a small monkey, rescued by Nick. This beautiful, intelligent baby has only one functional eye. I was asked to give her an English name. She is so bright, energetic, intelligent and mischievous and so quick to win a place for herself in your heart, that I readily chose "Pamela", the name of my stepdaughter. Both Richard and Father Chen were shocked, but I believe the original Pamela will feel honored.

The English congregation ate lunch together at a nearby restaurant and we sadly departed for Taipei, feeling very much a part of St. Luke's.

Father Chen's printed material on the church ends with the invitation, "If you get a chance to visit Hualean, do not forget to join us at St. Luke's Church. Welcome!"



## AUSTRALIAN CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Once again, as Christmas draws near - and as we approach the year 2000 - we give thanks to Almighty God for His wonderful gift of Jesus, as we celebrate His 2000th anniversary. We wish you a blessed Christmas and a great New Year.

This year we have had many blessings through our friendships and travels; and opportunities to serve God - even though we are 'retired'.

After Andrew had done a three-months locum at Craigieburn on the outskirts of Melbourne, we flew to the North Island of N.Z. to meet up with former Good Shepherd parishioners - and what a time we had together! What hospitality! The Brownes, Jerry Wellington and the Tothills made our holiday a great experience.

In July, we drove the campervan to Queensland to stay with Michael and his family to help look after their five girls during Sandie's recuperation after surgery. We were away for nearly eight weeks. The journey home was along the coast road and we were able to call on friends at Coffs Harbour and Seaspray.

Our ten grandchildren are growing apace. Roger, the eldest (16), is now at Monash University and doing very well, studying Earth Sciences and Palaeontology as well as keeping up with other subjects at home with Elspeth.

Christina and her husband, Ian, moved from South Africa to

Belgium earlier this year and Ian worked in a university there for five months before they moved to Israel where Ian is now working at the Ben Gurion University's Desert Research Institute, south of Beersheva, and Christina is teaching English part-time.

Tom changed jobs and now works for a leading racing-car driver. The work involves high quality workmanship which is what Tom has always wanted. His wife, Sarah, will change from her early childhood work at the end of the year.

Bronwen has been involved in The Gisborne Singers, the Gisborne Artists' Society, and Mothers' Union. She has also led the Senior Citizens' Choir. We have both been involved with A.B.M., Probus, a Garden Club, and attend classes to maintain our spoken Mandarin and to learn to read and write in Chinese.

Although we are retired, we seem to lead an active life and enjoy developing our large garden in spite of water restrictions due to the three-year drought here. Andrew is now 'locum' at Craigieburn again for two days each week, as they still have not managed to find a permanent incumbent. It helps us to save, as we are hoping to go to England again in April.

Greetings to the clergy and all our other friends, God bless,

*Andrew and Bronwen*

## Trip to Hualien

*Richard Sah*

Elizabeth and I were invited to visit St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Hualien at the end of November. Hualien is a delightfully uncrowded town on the East Coast of Taiwan, not far from Taiwan's foremost tourist attraction, Taroko Gorge.

Elizabeth and I had taken my daughter Pamela to visit the Hualien area three years ago, when we had found the sights to be truly stunning: the deep, narrow gorge with walls of marble, the open countryside, and the beautiful coastline. We were therefore very eager for a return visit, especially since some of the other tourist attractions in Taiwan, located up in the mountains, are now inaccessible because of earthquake damage.

Elizabeth's mission was to gather information for an article in the Taiwan Episcopal Church's English-language newsletter, *Friendship*, and I went along for the ride. As we had heard previously, Reverend Luke Chen has accomplished wonders in Hualien. With support from the Taiwan Episcopal Church, he has beautifully remodeled St Luke's Church and has built a remarkably vibrant church community serving the Chinese, the aborigines, the Philippine guest workers, and the disabled. Without question, St. Luke's is successfully reaching out to needy communities in the area. It is an exciting place, and it was marvelous for us to see the different ethnic communities coming together and sharing both

worship and fellowship.

Traditional Confucian values stress the importance of familial and societal relationships, resulting in a regrettable but common disregard for strangers and members of other ethnic groups. The St. Luke's community is inspiringly different, and an example may be illustrative. When a gust of wind blew over a parked motor scooter near the church, one member of the church community searched for the owner and, having failed, carefully picked up the scooter and repacked its scattered contents.

Interesting foods are always entertaining, and Elizabeth was indulged in her continual requests for Chinese food and for "specialty foods." The most interesting dish we sampled needs some explanation. The chewing of betel nuts is now a very popular, but particularly nasty, Taiwanese addiction. Chewing these nuts apparently provides a mild narcotic "high," at the cost of a mouth filled with red juice, dental and oral diseases, high expenses, and a continual need to spit out a red pulp. The little green betel nuts grow on a small palm tree, a little like a miniature date palm. Many Taiwan hillsides have suffered massive erosion because of the planting of betel nut trees, and the roadsides are dotted with stands at which scantily clad beauties dispense these mixed blessings. Anyway, we were offered stir-fried betel nut "hearts." These turned out



to be the tender centers of betel nut shoots, much like bamboo shoots, and were very tasty. We did not foam red at the mouth, nor did we experience a need to spit a lot.

Reverend Chen graciously drove us around to see the sights, and we greatly enjoyed visiting Taroko Gorge again – it was there that we ate the betel nut hearts. I shall, however, share some impressions of Hualien itself. We stayed at a Mennonite guesthouse, located on the oceanfront – right at Hualien Harbor to be precise. The harbor is a massive and spare concrete construction, to which I was denied entry when I asked permission to run along the harbor roads. Therefore, I ran along the seaside, on terrazzo sidewalks inlaid with large chunks of marble, and soon came to a public park, still under construction, located on a high bluff overlooking the sea. Access was via an elegant, very high wooden footbridge that spanned the mouth of a river. Closer inspection revealed that the deceptively casual-looking structure actually rested on steel box beams and immense concrete pillars that would grace a freeway overpass. The river trickled peacefully among the pilings, but huge, van-sized concrete blocks, built to resist erosion, lay scattered around the riverbed and were proof of the raw power of the torrents during typhoon season. The public park offered a stunning view of the inland mountains, covered in tropical greenery and lit by golden bands of morning sunlight shining through openings in the heavy cloud cover. Close by, the harbor was coming to

life under an irresistible commercial imperative. The unexpected juxtaposition of the natural and sublime with the practical and industrial seemed to be quintessential Hualien (and, indeed, Taiwan).

Excerpt from a letter of Annie Webb Cheshire, Episcopal missionary in Wusih, China, to her aunt, Miss Margaret Webb in Hillsboro, North Carolina, November 15, 1910.

The next occurrence after that is my [Chinese] examination. I applied for it before Thanksgiving, but every body is busy and they had to appoint the 29th. Mr. McRae and Mr. Tsu-Ba Nyoen, a Chinese priest will examine me. I am going down to Shanghai for it the day after Thanksgiving on the last train after my classes in the school. Then I'll shop Saturday and have my exam. on Tuesday. My shopping consists of getting things for my Xmas tee. I've undertaken one for my Sunday School class. I have a "special" sent me to use any way I wanted, by a cousin of Mrs. Groton's and it was \$10 gold. It never really has got here, but she wrote me it was coming so I'm banking on it. That will be about \$22 Mex. Then I'm going to put in the rest myself. I am planning for 50 children and Mary [wife of Dr. Claude Lee] says I'll be awfully lucky to get off for \$50. Things out here are so awfully expensive. I have gotten [a] lot of Chinese red paper and gold and silver paper they use for making paper money to burn to their ancestors, and I'm making all kinds of ornaments out of that. It

doesn't cost much and tho it won't look so grand as bought things the children probably won't know. The red paper I wrapped your things in is the kind all Chinese wrap their presents in. I am counting on getting 25 dolls for 50 cents a piece--I only hope I can get them for that and get a tailor for 60 cents a day and have him dress them. I have enough screaming pink muslin to make the dresses. I had it at a fancy dress party at Kuling. Then I can get a piece of muslin for underclothes and having the clothes made will save about \$10. The tailor can make them in 2 days--they will be the very simplest kind and the muslin and tailor together will be about \$300, where as if I bought them dressed they would be about \$1 a piece. I think I'll get foreign caps for all the boys. They say they just love them. They will be about 50 cents a piece and the candy about \$10 and the oranges about \$3 and whatever is left over from the \$50 I've allowed for ornaments and candles. I'll have popcorn wreaths too. I'm teaching the children "While Shepherds watch their flocks by night" and they know 3 verses now. Mary and I are wild to have a tree and invite all the little children on our street but we can't afford it. Dr. Lee says we'd have at least 100 and even giving them just candy and a mechanical toy apiece (60 cents a doz.) would be right much considering each of us has another tree on hand. I am just wild about the tree and can hardly wait to get down and buy the things.

We are making the cutest clothes in the Woman's Auxiliary now for the new hospital. They are for children and are turned back and

have frogs for fastening of red. That was my idea and they are so cute I'm proud of it. The old white unbleached ones are so unattractive and the red makes them look grand. I know the children will love them.

[Letter of January 3, 1911.] We had an awfully nice Christmas. The first thing we did was to go out to the Lake [Ta-hu] for holly. We borrowed the Sih's motorboat and it was perfectly glorious. The day was perfect and the holly was beautiful--just crimson with berries and we got as much as we could use. That night Dr. Tucker came up [from Shanghai] loaded down with Christmas bundles and he also brought our Christmas trees. We couldn't get one up here, as all the cedars are planted on grave mounds and you can't buy one for their weight in gold. I had presents for fifty children and of course oceans more came so we just couldn't let them all in. They stayed in the guest room until the tree was lighted and then marched in and sang, "While Shepherds watched..." They were the cutest things and certainly had a good time. [Note: Annie Cheshire worked in Wusih from 1909 to 1914, and in 1915 she married Dr. Augustine W. Tucker in Raleigh, NC and they returned to Shanghai where he was head surgeon at St. Luke's Hospital and also taught medicine at St. John's University. They had seven children in Shanghai of whom I was the youngest 1925. I can remember going to Wusih as a boy and walking around the city on the wall and going to Lake Ta-hu. - B. D. Tucker]



# Editor's Comments

It is with both sadness and gratitude that I embark on this, my last, edition of Friendship as editor. In June of 1997, I began my duties as Bishop Chien's English secretary. Bo Teddards, my predecessor, asked if I would consider taking this on. He assured me that it would be a pleasant way to improve my Chinese. I thought it unlikely the bishop would want me, but I agreed to talk to him.

The interview began with "I never had a Ph.D. for a secretary before." Well", I responded, "I've never been a secretary before. I can't type. I don't know shorthand. My computer skills are dismal and, if I file something, it will not be found again in this lifetime." God moves in mysterious ways his wonders to perform. Bishop Chien said, "When can you begin?"

Thus began one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. I have met and worked with most of the clergy members of the Diocese of Taiwan. I was married to Dr. Richard Sah in the Church of the Good Shepherd with Rev. Doyle officiating in English and Dean Lin officiating in Chinese. Chancellor Ma presented me for marriage and he and Mrs. Ma were our witnesses for the legal ceremony. I witnessed the ordinations of Peter Chen and Elizabeth Wei. Elizabeth became the first woman priest in the diocese. I was part of Bishop Chien's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Bishop Chien honored Richard and me by

asking us to be part of the delegation for the inauguration of the Province of Hong Kong where we met more archbishops than I previously knew existed. He further honored me by asking me to represent the Diocese at the Episcopal Asian Ministries convocation in Taiwan and Hong Kong.

While the aforementioned secretarial skills are still almost as deficient as two years ago, I have been able to serve in ways I never expected. I have been God's conduit in three successful grant applications. The first was to a private foundation for a grant to publish "Cottage to Cathedral – a Narrative History of the Episcopal Church in Taiwan", the second was to UTO for the social services center of St. Timothy's Church which will be officially sanctioned on January 1, 2000, and the third was also to UTO for the money to renovate St. Luke's Church in Hualien as a center for aboriginal and handicapped students, migrant workers (primarily Filipinos) and the elderly, all of whom are underserved in that area.

In helping to translate English passages, I have attained a new appreciation of my own language and been exposed the theological questions not previously contemplated.

Previously unsuspected ability to write speeches and pleas for funds and responses to people from many different lands and with many different agendas has appeared.



And then there is Friendship....I have helped Friendship to reflect the bishop's ideas of an interactive lay ministry. In plain English, that means if you come as a diocesan visitor, you will be pressured mercilessly to write something for Friendship. In incorporating many different voices, we reflect the many different experiences that make up modern day Taiwan for Episcopalians.

I fondly, and very sadly, leave the regular contact with the other members of the Bishop's staff. Each has made my life far richer than it would have otherwise been. Julia Lin, the bishop's Chinese language secretary is the kindest and most patient human being imaginable. Her generosity in helping me with Chinese and making me feel always welcome and loved is exceptionally precious. Hui-Ling Hsu, Friendship's technical editor, is equally patient with my inability to do simple things on a computer whose instructions are in Chinese. She does not speak English unless I am in dire straits, but reads, writes and understand it well. Her ability to create documents, both usual and really strange on the computer is exceptional. I never hesitate to ask her for documents that are nothing short of miraculous, and she rarely fails to produce them quickly and cheerfully. Mr. Chang, the assistant treasurer, manages to get together financial and diocesan documents of great complexity and get them translated into English if necessary for my various assignments. The very best member of the team in Grace Chien, the bishop's wife who brings us smiles, fruit, sweets of all kinds, and such

warmth and good cheer as her English name implies. Pang Pang, the ancient and highly overweight inside dog the Chiens rescued from the streets of Taipei completes the team.

We have worked together, prayed together, played together and come to love each other as members of the family of God should do. I will miss being part of the bishop's staff intensely

My role in daily life is changing. I will now go daily to the offices of Primasia where, with God's help, I will put together their first venture capital fund. It will specialize in high tech and biotech issues. My doctorate is in microbiology and molecular biology and I have had extensive experience in fund-raising for business and for non-profit organizations. I ask for your prayers as I enter this new phase of my journey. Your suggestions would also be very welcome.

Thank you all for bearing with my many mistakes and for the contributions that you have made with your articles, your comments and your suggestions.

Lovingly,



*Elizabeth Green Sah*



## ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL

The cathedral English congregation has undergone many changes in the past six months. Filipino attendance has steadily diminished since the raids last Christmas Eve. Dean Lin currently has no clergy assistant and has added duties between the English and Chinese services.

With all these pressures, the English service has been shortened. There is now no Processional or recessional and only one hymn sung during the service. The sermon has been eliminated. Now, however, Holy

Communion is served every Sunday rather than only twice a month as in the past. After service fellowship continues with the birthday cakes available once per month and tea available every Sunday

The last few Sundays have seen an increase in attendance.

Christmas Eve high mass will be at 8 PM, a combined service. There will be Christmas carols followed by a feast on Christmas morning.

## Good Shepherd

This quarter has been a busy one for Good Shepherd. In October, the English congregation invited the bishop and Mrs. Chien, Chancellor and Mrs. Herbert Ma and the Chinese priests, Elizabeth Wei and Peter Chen to a banquet at the Celestial restaurant. A surprise visitor from the Netherlands was Mike Waters. This was the first of what everyone present hopes will be many similar events.

Remembrance Sunday was celebrated with participation by the Honorable Mr. Mulroney of Canada, the Honorable Mr. Bridge of New Zealand, the Honorable Mr. Coates of Great Britain and official representatives of the United States

and Australia. Steve Young of AIT hosted the brunch at his home. In December, the English and Chinese congregations had a Christmas bazaar on December 12 and earned in excess of NT\$20,000 for the Christian Hospital at Puli. The combined group will rent a bus and travel to Puli in January to present the money.

December brunch was held at the home of Marc Wall and Eunice Reddick.

Christmas Eve Good Shepherd will have carols at 8PM followed by mass at 10PM. Christmas morning English service at 9:30 and Chinese at 10:45 with a feast following.

## **In Memoriam The Rev. Dr. Charlie Price**

I was most blessed to have Dr. Price as my tutor when I studied at Virginia Theological Seminary in 1973. I enjoyed very much taking his Systematic Theology, which I regard as one of the most rewarding courses I have ever taken in the long journey of my study.

I gave wind-bells made up of bamboo fishes to him as a gift. He treasured these and hung them on the ceiling in his living room. Whenever we attended the weekly Bible study we would see them swaying in the air. He was a person of great compassion. I know he was very busy, yet he always tried his best to understand me speaking English with such foreign accents, for I was a foreign student.

I knew that he had never been to Asia. Therefore, I encouraged him to visit the Far East and promised to help him organize a trip. I was delighted to be able to fulfill my promise several years ago. Mr. William F. Honaman, the secretary to the primate of N.S.K.K. in Japan, Dr. Pong Tau Yu from Hong Kong and myself, co-operated in this successful arrangement. We were so happy to welcome him here in Taiwan. Everyone who met him enjoyed him immensely. He was always so curious about things here, especially when he attended the palace Museum. After his visit he kept asking me how he could contribute to the work of this diocese.

He most kindly underwrote the publication of the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of "Cottage to Cathedral" in memory of his parents, Phillip Wallace Price and Edith Arensberg Price. It was published at the time of my tenth anniversary as Bishop of Taiwan. For this we are very appreciative.

Others will write of his greatness as a teacher, theologian, author, philanthropist, etc. I write of him as a beloved friend and mentor who supported my spiritual growth to the end of his life. God grant him eternal rest and joy. I will miss him greatly.

*John Chien*